

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT OF CALFED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

October 16, 1997

Much of the technical work leading to selection of a Preferred Alternative has been accomplished, and now the first priority is to put the pieces together for a CALFED Policy Group decision. To accomplish this work, a team has been established consisting of a core group of CALFED staff who will support a broader group of agency staff, collectively known as the Interagency Development Team. This team will report to the Management Team and to the Policy Group, as delineated on the attached process diagram.

The IDT is in the process of optimizing the three CALFED alternatives identified in Phase I of the process. This is being done because it is understood that alternatives cannot be rejected until we can demonstrate credible effort to design each of the three to perform optimally.

The optimization process is being accomplished by evaluating features according to their Distinguishing Characteristics (which have been previously approved) and by considering opportunities for altering features to maximize their performance. Development of the three optimized alternatives will be discussed with BDAC, Management Team and Policy Group at their November meetings.

The IDT will next use the Distinguishing Characteristics to compare and evaluate the three optimized alternatives, arriving at staff's proposal for a Draft Preferred Alternative. By definition, the proposed Preferred Alternative recommended by staff, with the involvement of BDAC, Management Team, and Policy Group is intended to be the optimal solution that best satisfies CALFED Objectives and Solution Principles as displayed by the Distinguishing Characteristics. The proposed Draft Preferred Alternative will be submitted to BDAC at its December meeting and to the Policy Group for approval at its December meeting.

In a process this complex, there are many issues concerning compliance with State and Federal laws, regulations and processes. The effort to begin to structure a Preferred Alternative for management decision is not intended in any way to interfere with legal requirements or with individual agency responsibilities. Rather, this is an effort to more fully focus our efforts to better assure all requirements are met and ensure a sound decision is made within the extremely short time frame available to us.

Attachment

1016IDT